

Message Text

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12

ACTION EA-14

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 PA-03 SCA-01 SS-15 NSC-10 PRS-01 USIA-15

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P R 250625Z SEP 73

FM AMCONSUL MELBOURNE

TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 1791

INFO AMEMBASSY CANBERRA

UNCLAS MELBOURNE 0976

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: OVIP, AS (REAGAN, RONALD)

SUBJECT: VISIT OF GOVERNOR REAGAN OF CALIFORNIA TO MELBOURNE.

1. NEGOTIATIONS HAVE BEEN CONDUCTED SINCE JUNE BY VARIOUS OFFICIALS OF THE AUSTRALIAN RED CROSS IN MELBOURNE AND AND MICHAEL DEEVER, GOVERNOR REAGAN'S ASISTANT, CONCERNING GOVERNOR REAGAN'S VISIT TO VICTORIA.

2. OFFICIAL INVITATIONS HAVE BEEN EXTENDED FROM THE RED CROSS AND THE PREMIER OF VICTORIA TO VISIT THE STATE FROM NOVEMBER 28 TO DECEMBER 3, INCLUDING AN INVITATION FROM THE GOVERNOR OF VICTORIA TO GOVERNOR AND MRS. REAGAN AND TWO MEMBERS OF HIS PARTY TO BE GUESTS AT GOVERNMENT HOUSE. NOT ALL COMMUNICATIONS HAVE BEEN RECEIVED BY ALL PARTIES CONCERNED AND DESPITE RECENT TELEPHONE CONVERSATIONS BETWEEN RED CORSS GENERAL SECRETARY GODDARD AND DEEVER, MANY QUESTIONS STILL UNANSWERED.

3. ALTHOUGH DEEVER HAS SENT LETTER TO RED CROSS CONFIRMING GOVERNOR'S ACCEPTANCE OF THEIR INVITATION, THERE STILL REMAINS QUESTIONS WHICH REQUIRE RESPONSE. THEREFORE, WOULD APPRECIATE DEPARTMENT'S ASSISTANCE IN OBTAINING FROM GOVERNOR REAGAN ANSWERS TO THE FOLLOWING QUESTIONS:

A. WILL HE ACCEPT IN WRITING OFFICIAL INVITATION TO VISIT STATE FROM PREMIER HAMER OF VICTORIA?

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B. WILL HE ACCEPT INFORMAL INVITATION EXTENDED FROM THE GOVERNOR OF VICTORIA FOR HIM, MRS. REAGAN AND TWO OF HIS STAFF TO STAY AT GOVERNMENT HOUSE? IF SO, A FORMAL INVITATION WILL BE SENT.

C. IS PROGRAM FORWARDED IN GODDARD'S LETTER OF SEPTEMBER 14 COVERING GOVERNOR REAGAN'S VISIT ACCEPTABLE?

D. RUMOURS HAVE BEEN HEARD THAT GOVERNOR REAGAN MIGHT VISIT AUSTRALIA AS A PERSONAL ENVOY OF PRESIDENT NIXON. IS THIS TRUE, AND IF SO, WHAT ARE DETAILS WHICH MAY NOW BE PASSED TO INTERESTED OFFICIALS?

4. LOCAL RED CROSS AND GOVERNMENT OFFICIALS PLAN PRESS RELEASE FOR GOVERNOR'S VISIT AND WANT TO ISSUE IT SIMULTANEOUSLY WITH THE CALIFORNIA PRESS RELEASE. PLEASE OBTAIN CALIFORNIA TEXT AND TRANSMIT TO AMCONSUL.

5. PLEASE OBTAIN ANSWERS TO ABOVE QUESTIONS AND ADVISE AMCONSUL SO THAT WE MAY TRANSMIT TO INTERESTED OFFICIALS.
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